

CRYPTOCHIRIDAE, THE CORRECT NAME FOR THE
FAMILY CONTAINING THE GALL CRABS
(CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: BRACHYURA)

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Abstract.—Cryptochiridae Paulson, 1875, is shown to be a senior synonym of Hapalocarcinidae Calman, 1900.

Until now, most authors have assigned the gall crabs, members of the genera *Cryptochirus* Heller, 1861, *Hapalocarcinus* Stimpson, 1859, *Troglocarcinus* Verrill, 1908, and several others, to the family Hapalocarcinidae Calman, 1900. Manning and Holthuis (1981:250), who summarized the names applied to families of marine brachyuran crabs, cited Calman as author of the family name.

However, a different family group name was used by at least three different authors prior to 1900. O. Paulson (1875:78) introduced the subfamily Cryptochirinae within the family Pinnotheridae for the genus *Lithoscaptus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1862, now a synonym of *Cryptochirus* Heller, 1861. Paulson, who may not have been aware that Heller's account was published before that of Milne-Edwards, actually considered *Cryptochirus coralliodytes* Heller to be a junior synonym of *Lithoscaptus paradoxus*, whereas the reverse is true. Later, F. Richters (1880:159) cited the family Cryptochiridae. He recognized that *Lithoscaptus paradoxus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1862, was a synonym of *Cryptochirus coralliodytes* Heller, 1861, and synonymized the former. He erroneously attributed the family name Lithoscaptidae to A. Milne-Edwards. As pointed out by Manning and Holthuis (1981:250), Milne-Edwards used a name in the French vernacular for the family.

E. von Martens, in the *Zoological Record* for 1880, cited the "Cryptochiridae" on p. 30, and noted that Richters had proposed the family but had not characterized it.

Calman (1900:48) recognized that Paulson had used the family group name Cryptochirinae, and, on p. 49, noted "we can only regard these two genera [*Cryptochirus* and *Hapalocarcinus*] as forming a family for the present *incertae sedis*, for which the name Hapalocarcinidae will have to replace Milne-Edwards's "Lithoscaptés," the latter being based on a synonym of *Cryptochirus*."

The synonymy for the family Cryptochiridae Paulson, 1875, is as follows:

Lithoscaptés A. Milne-Edwards, 1862:F10 [vernacular name; type-genus *Lithoscaptus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1862].

Cryptochirinae Paulson, 1875:77 [type-genus *Cryptochirus* Heller, 1861].

Hapalocarcinidae Calman, 1900:49 [type-genus *Hapalocarcinus* Stimpson, 1859].

The superfamily name (see Bowman and Abele 1982, for a summary of crustacean classification to the family level) becomes Cryptochiroidea Paulson, 1875.

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